

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL
& AFRICAN PALMS USA**

**THE TWENTY-SIX SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
PROPER 28**

Sunday, November 17, 2024

8:00am & 10:30am

HOLY EUCHARIST



Golden Stones of Jerusalem by Alex Levin

3427 Olney Laytonsville Rd. Olney, MD 20832

Phone: (301) 774-6999

Website: www.stjec.org

Welcome to St. John's Church

We are a diverse faith community committed to carrying out Christ's mission in the world around us. We love the beauty of worship and live into the faithful and constant commitment towards seeking social and economic justice and reconciliation among all peoples. We come from across the globe, with varied family configurations, educational backgrounds, occupations, interests, and talents and invite you to join us.

If you are visiting our church for the first time, please introduce yourself to an usher or a member of the Clergy. We have a small gift for you from the parish.

If you are seeking a spiritual home, please speak with the Clergy.

If you have questions, email us at welcome@stjec.org



Please join us for Coffee and fellowship following the worship service

If you are a guest with us today, please know that you are welcome to enjoy some fellowship, coffee, and tea with us in the Parish Hall following the service.

Children are welcome at all services

If you have little worshipers with you today who might enjoy coloring, Play-Doh, or a Rubik's cube, these can be found at either entrance.

The Nursery is open from 8am to 12pm for children age 5 and under.

SUNDAY @ ST. JOHN'S

8am	<i>Worship with Eucharist, no music, in the Sanctuary</i>
9am	<i>Adult Forum: Book & discussion group in the undercroft Meeting Room</i>
8:45am	<i>Choir Rehearsal in the undercroft Choir Room</i>
9:45am	<i>Holy Household Half-Hour, Intergenerational "Sunday school" in the Parish Hall</i>
10:30am	<i>Worship with Eucharist and choir in the Sanctuary</i>
12-1pm	<i>Middle & High School Youth Group</i>
12-1pm	<i>Hand Bell Choir</i>

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PRELUDE: Musette

Langlais

The people stand.

Opening Hymn 48

O day of radiant gladness

1 O day of ra - diant glad - ness, O day of joy and
2 This day at the cre - a - tion, the light first had its
3 This day, God's peo - ple meet - ing, his Ho - ly Scrip - ture
4 That light our hope sus - tain - ing, we walk the pil - grim

light, O balm of care and sad - ness, most
birth; this day for our sal - va - tion Christ
hear; his liv - ing pres - ence greet - ing, through
way, at length our rest at - tain - ing, our

beau - ti - ful, most bright; this day the high and
rose from depths of earth; this day our Lord vic -
Bread and Wine made near. We jour - ney on, be -
end - less Sab - bath day. We sing to thee our

low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune, sing,
to - rious the Spi - rit sent from heaven, and
liev - ing, re - newed with heaven - ly might, from
prais - es, O Fa - ther, Spi - rit, Son; the

“Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,” to the great God Tri - une.
thus this day most glo - rious a tri - ple light was given.
grace more grace re - ceiv - ing on this blest day of light.
Church her voice up - rais - es to thee, blest Three in One.

Words: Sts. 1-2, Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1835), alt.; st. 3, Charles P. Price (1920-1999); st. 4, ver. *Hymnal 1982*. St. 3, Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price. St. 4, Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein*, German folk song; harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934).

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
People And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever. Amen

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

8:00AM

Gloria

BCP, pg. 356

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of the God the Father. amen

10:30AM

S278

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -
might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the

Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of

God the Fa-ther. A-men.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
 Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

People are seated.

SAMUEL 1: 4-20

Reader

A READING FROM THE PROPHET SAMUEL

On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb. Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the Lord. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly. She made this vow: "O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head."

As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. So Eli said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine." But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for

I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time." Then Eli answered, "Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him." And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your sight." Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer.

They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the Lord."

Reader	The Word of the Lord.
People	Thanks be to God.

Psalm 16

- 1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *
I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord,
my good above all other."
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *
upon those who are noble among the people.
- 3 But those who run after other gods *
shall have their troubles multiplied.
- 4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, *
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.
- 5 O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; *
it is you who uphold my lot.
- 6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
- 7 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; *
my heart teaches me, night after night.

8 I have set the Lord always before me; *
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.
9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; *
my body also shall rest in hope.
10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, *
nor let your holy one see the Pit.
11 You will show me the path of life; *
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

HEBREWS 10:11-14 , 19-25

Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.” For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

The People stand

Sequence Hymn 626

Lord, be thy word my rule

1 Lord, be thy word my rule; in it may I re - joice;
 2 thy prom - is - es my hope; thy prov - i - dence my guard;

thy glo - ry be my aim, thy ho - ly will my choice;
 thine arm my strong sup - port; thy - self my great re - ward.

Words: Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885). Music: *Quam dilecta*, Henry Lascelles Jenner (1820-1898).

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 13: 1-8

Deacon
PeopleThe Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
Glory to you, Lord Christ

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" Then Jesus began to say to them,

“Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birthpangs.”

People The Gospel of the Lord
 Praise to you, Lord Christ

THE SERMON

The Reverend Nancy Stockbridge

THE NICENE CREED

BCP, pg. 358

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
 and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.
 We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
 With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
 He has spoken through the Prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People Episcopal Relief & Development

Let us pray for the life of the world...

For our loved ones ... those whom we know and hold in our
 hearts, and all of your children who are unknown to us but
 always known to you. Help us keep the needs of all, especially
 the youngest amongst us, in our prayers. Bond us through your
 love and inspire us to action alongside the voiceless. God of love,
People Receive our prayer.

For those who teach us... our teachers at school and church, our
 family at home, and in all places that we learn and grow. Help
 us to listen and pray with patience as we learn from God and
 one another. God our teacher,
People Receive our prayer.

For those who lead us... give the leaders of our nations, towns, communities, and homes wisdom to serve people of all ages in love and peace. Give us all the language and intention to share your love in the world. God who guides us,

People **Receive our prayer.**

For the sick and poor... We pray for access that meets the needs of those who do not have enough. For nutritious food, housing, loving relationships, and all the things that help us to thrive. We pray especially for **Harry, Celeste, Jessica, Paula, Mary Helen, Jere, Roberta, Tim, Mary, Joseph.**

God of the vulnerable,

People **Receive our prayer.**

For ourselves... Thanksgiving for play, for music that moves us and all of the good things you bless us with. Inspire us to dwell in the stories of others and respond to the needs of our neighbors as you have taught us. God who walks with us,

People **Receive our prayer.**

The priest offers a concluding collect.

God, we thank you for always being with us. Open and transform our hearts that we might connect more deeply with the needs of others and be moved to be your love and care in the world. Help us to keep courage as we learn, share, and give.

Amen.

CONFESSION/ ABSOLUTION

BCP, pg. 360

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son**

Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

People The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.



Use the QR code to donate from your mobile device.

ANTHEM Lead Kindly Light

Lehman

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP, pg. 367

The people stand

People The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

People Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

People Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

8:00AM

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

10:30AM

Sanctus S128

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days, you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being

sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.
Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, in the language closest to our hearts, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Vater unser im Himmel,
geheiligt werde dein Name;
dein Reich komme;
dein Wille geschehe,
wie im Himmel so auf Erden.
Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute.
Und vergib uns unsere Schuld,
wie auch wir vergeben unsern
Schuldigern;
und führe uns nicht in
Versuchung,
sondern erlöse uns von dem
Bösen.
Denn dein ist das Reich und die
Kraft
und die Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit.
Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

8:00AM

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us

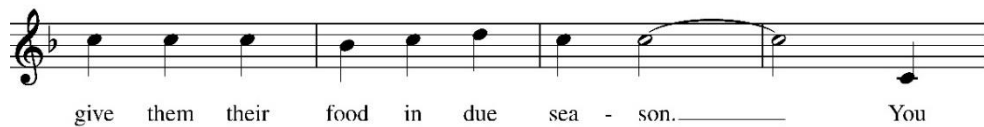
People

Therefore let us keep the feast.

10:30am

Fraction Hymn WLP 820

The eyes of all wait upon you



Words: Ps. 145:16-17 (BCP). Music: *Bayou*, Carol Doran (b 1936).

The Gifts of God for the People of God

This is God's table; communion is offered to all who are called by Christ to participate. You can receive in both kinds, bread, and wine, or in just one. To receive communion, or a blessing, please come forward to the priest at the front of the altar. To receive bread put your hands out, to receive wine, please drink from the chalice. For health reasons, we do not intinct (dip) the bread. To receive a blessing cross your arms across your chest. Gluten-free host is available. Please make your needs known to the priest.

The people are seated

Sending Prayers for Eucharistic Visitors.

Deacon: In the name of God and this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People: **We who are many are one body because we all share one bread and one cup.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

The people stand.

People: **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn 598

Lord Christ, when first thou cam'st to earth



1. Lord Christ, when first you came to earth, Up -
 2. O awe - some Love, which finds no room In
 3. New ad - vent of the love of Christ, Will
 4. O wound - ed hands of Je - sus, build In



on a cross they bound you. And mocked your sav - ing
 life where sin de - nies you. And, doomed to death, shall
 we a - gain re - fuse you. Till in the night of
 us your new cre - a - tion: Our pride is dust, our



king-ship's worth By thorns with which they crowned you. And
 bring to doom The pow'r which cru - ci - fies you, Till
 hate and war We per - ish as we lose you? From
 boast - ing stilled; We wait your rev - e - la - tion. O



still our wrongs may fash - ion now New thorns to pierce that
 not a stone be left on stone, And then the na - tion's
 an - cient doubts our minds re - lease To seek the king - dom
 Love that tri - umphs o - ver loss, We bring our hearts be -



stead - y brow, And robe of sor - row round you.
 pride, o'er-thrown, Will nev - er - more de - fy you!
 of your peace, By which a - lone we choose you.
 fore your cross To fin - ish your sal - va - tion.

Text: W. Russel Bowie, 1882-1969, alt., ©

Tune: MIT FREUDEN ZART, 8 7 8 7 88 7; Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesang*, 1566

DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE : Voluntary No. 11

Page

TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

Use this list to pray and to show your love and concern for the sick, shut-in, bereaved, or those merely in need of prayer. If you wish to submit a name, please contact the office at accounting@stjec.org.

In case of pastoral emergency, please call 301-774-3619 or email pastoralcare@stjec.org.

Harry Brooks
Celeste McGee
Jessica Brice
Paula Fangboner
Mary Helen
Jere Rowland
Robert Ridenour
Tim Wittig
Mary Persinger
Joseph Sears

If you are ill for an extended period, are hospitalized, need a visit or Eucharist brought to you, want your home blessed, are celebrating a birth, adoption, or want specific prayers for any number of celebrations or sorrows, please email: pastoralcare@stjec.org.

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday and Thursday November 12 & 14 @ 9-11am

- African Palms Packing

Sunday, November 17

- Casserole Club at 12:00pm

Tuesday and Thursday November 19 & 21 @ 9-11am

- African Palms Packing

Wednesday, November 20

- Vestry Meeting

Sunday, November 24

- Advent Wreath Making at 11:30am

Thursday, November 28 & 29

- Thanksgiving Day – Office Closed

Sunday, December 1

- Newcomer's Coffee hour

Tuesday and Thursday December 3 & 5 @ 9-11am

- African Palms Packing

Saturday, December 7

- Advent Dinner – Lessons and Carols at 5:00pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AFRICAN PALMS 2.0

We need help packing large distributors' orders. We are packing Tuesday and Thursday mornings 9 to 11am, please consider helping with this task.

TWEENS FAITH CLUB

St. John's newly formed Tweens Faith Group for students in grades 3-5 meets once a month on Sunday afternoons at 5pm in the Parish Hall. The next meeting is scheduled for today, November 17th. All Tweens grades 3-5 are invited to join us in the Parish Hall for games, tactile faith exploration, and pizza. Parents are welcome to stay or to drop off. Parents who would like to be a part of the planning/teaching team, please speak with or contact Mo. Shivaun.

ADVENT WREATH MAKING

Join us on Sunday, November 24th at 11:30am in the Parish Hall as we await Christmas with Advent Wreath Making. Advent is a time of expectation and hope filled with rich traditions which prompts us to pause and remember why Jesus came at Christmas.

NURSERY HELPER

The Nursery has a need for a second leader on Sunday mornings from 10am to 12pm. If you are interested in being on the volunteer nursery rotation on Sunday mornings, please speak with Mo. Shivaun.

FOOD PANTRY

Pantry needs for this week include: Canned Tuna Fish, Beef Stew, Chili, Can Chicken. Fruit Cups, Black Beans, Taco Kits.

ADVENT DINNER Saturday, Dec. 7th, 5PM

Advent Dinner is an annual tradition at St. John's, over 4 decades old. (The first one was Friday, December 6, 1974). We kick off the advent season with a little bit of fancy and a lot of fellowship.

This year's dinner will feature Lessons and Carols at 5PM in the sanctuary, followed by potluck dinner, carols and dessert in the Parish Hall. The potluck is meant to be a "no-stress potluck" - make something or buy something to contribute. We will provide wine and mocktails.

We are looking for table hosts for this year's event!

Table hosts decorate a round table that seats 8. They pick a theme, a color scheme, and be as elaborate or simple as they want. Hosts supply an appetizer for 15-20 people for their table. The attendees will tour the tables and get to vote on different categories: "Most Unexpected," "Best Christmas Theology," "Most Creative," "Best First Impression," and "Best Environmental Statement." Winning Table Hosts will receive a prize.

Each table will come with a white tablecloth and candles, host can also use church china, glassware and silverware, however the Host can decorate however they would like, including using special china or glassware if desired. We will be playing a party game to determine seating beyond the hosts.

Children's Advent Party in the gym from 6-7:30PM

Children are warmly invited to attend Lessons and Carols at 5PM. (We will open nursery care for the PreK and underset if there is interest,) and then the children will be escorted to the gym to a dinner of chicken fingers, mac and cheese, and fruit, along with balls and advent activities. A donation of \$25 per family to underwrite childcare and dinner is requested.

At the end of the evening, we will enjoy dessert and sing carols. Children will be welcomed back to carol, too.

See Friday's Bell Tower for Sign up.



Celebrating ADVENT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7th @ 5pm

Start the evening off with
 Lessons & Carols at 5pm in the Sanctuary
 Followed by a Potluck Dinner in the Parish Hall
 (make something or buy something to contribute)
 St. John's will provide a Turkey, a Beef Stew, and a Vegetarian Pasta Dish,
 along with wine, soft drinks and festive mocktails.



Children are invited and welcome
 to Lessons & Carols at 5pm.

Children's Advent Party begins at
 6pm in the school gym.

Children will be escorted to the gym at 6pm for a dinner of Chicken Fingers, Mac-n-Cheese and Fruit, followed by games and advent activities. A donation of \$25 per family is suggested to underwrite childcare and the dinner.

Please see Friday's Bell Tower to RSVP and sign-up .

SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL & AFRICAN PALMS USA

Diocese of Washington

The Most Reverend Sean W. Rowe, *Presiding Bishop*

The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde, *Bishop*

STAFF

The Reverend Henry P. McQueen, *Rector*
rector@stjec.org

The Reverend Shivaun Wilkinson, *Associate Rector*
associate@stjec.org

The Reverend Nancy Stockbridge, *Deacon*
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Selva Selvarajah, *Verger*

VESTRY

Glen Drew – *Treasurer*
Aparna Williams – *Asst. Treasurer*
Vicki Hudson, 2027 – *Stewardship*
Carmen Jones, 2027 – *Evangelism*
Becca Roberson, 2027 – *Outreach*
Julie Metcalf – *Registrar*

Barry Gough, 2025 – *Sr. Warden*
Phil Reiff, 2025 – *STJES*
Alan Soukup, 2025 – *Worship, STJES*
Nancy Olkewicz, 2026 – *Parish Life*
Bill Fleming, 2026 – *Formation, Jr. Warden*
Mary Kerr, 2026 – *Pastoral Care*

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~ On the Land of the Piscataway Nation ~